



PATENTS
15311-2107

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re The Application of:
Gilbert M. Wolrich et al.

Serial No.: 09/042,417

Filed: March 13, 1998

For: Reduction of Add-Pipe Logic by Op-
erand Offset Shift

Examiner: Firmin Backer

Art Unit: 2155

Cesari and McKenna, LLP
88 Black Falcon Avenue
Boston, MA 02210
March 8, 2002

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Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S ANSWER

The Examiner has raised the issue of disclosure of the inventive concept in the application on appeal (Answer, page 7). Actually, there is a complete description of the inventive concept. We refer the Board to page 3, lines 15-25 of the application, where the novel feature is characterized in much the same manner as is it recited in the claims. A detailed description of this feature is contained in the passage beginning on page 6, line 22, which describes both a left/right shifter 32 that is used for alignment of the two mantissas involved in an addition or subtraction operation and a shifter 30, which is a novel

element in the circuit. Lines 19-27 describe the shifting operation of these circuit elements prior to an addition. On page 7, lines 1-11 the application describes the shifting operation prior to a subtraction. It is quite clear that, prior to a subtraction, both mantissas are positioned one bit to the left of their positions prior to an addition, as stated in the paragraph on lines 12-15.

We do not disagree with the Examiner's description of the Lynch reference. We do, however, emphatically disagree with his conclusion that its operation is the same as that performed by applicant's invention. It appears that the Examiner is confusing alignment of the mantissas *prior to* an addition or subtraction with the subsequent normalizing, which is performed *after* such an operation to cope with overflow (addition) and underflow (subtraction). In Lynch the alignment prior to addition or subtraction is the same for subtraction as it is for an addition. There is no disclosure or suggestion that it would be different..

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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